

# ■ Guide To Career Choices

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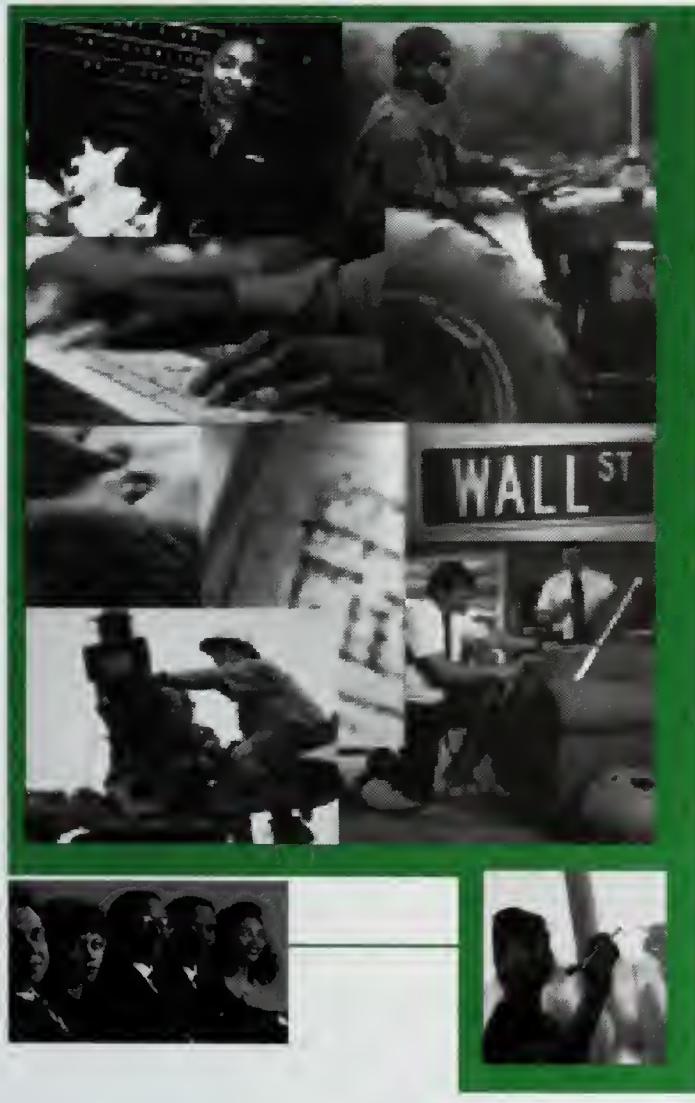
## automotive technology & SERVICES ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

a brief look at: APR 10 2002

- jobs
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# AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY & SERVICES

guide no. 09



ENTRY : The mean (average) of the bottom third of wages in an occupation.  
 MEDIAN: Half of the workers in the occupation earn more than this wage; half earn less.  
 EXPERIENCED : The mean of the top two-thirds of wages in an occupation.

HS > High School diploma or equivalent  
 AD > Associate Degree of Arts/Science  
 community college, 2 years  
 BA/BS > Bachelor of Arts/Science degree  
 colleges/universities, 4 years

## OUTLOOK

## HOURLY WAGES

Career Opportunities	2008 EMPLOYMENT	LONG-TERM OUTLOOK	SHORT-TERM FORECAST	ENTRY	MEDIAN	EXPERIENCED	EDUCATION AND TRAINING
Automotive Body Repairers	11,048	VF	F	\$9.44	\$15.51	\$19.76	Most employers prefer applicants who have completed formal training programs in high school, vocational or private trade school, or a community college.
Automotive Mechanics/Service Technicians	41,139	VF	VF	\$9.25	\$13.72	\$17.31	Courses in electronics have become increasingly important. Formal training programs and previous work experience are strongly recommended.
Bus & Truck Mechanics/Diesel Specialists	12,808	VF	F	\$10.89	\$16.31	\$19.65	Formal diesel mechanic training program is recommended. These one- to two-year programs often lead to a certificate or an AD.
First Line Supervisors, Mechanic & Repairers	21,946	VF	F	\$11.53	\$18.95	\$24.29	Experienced automotive mechanics with leadership abilities are often promoted to these positions.
Helpers, Mechanic & Repairer	12,636	VF	F	\$6.62	\$10.06	\$12.89	Skills are learned on the job.
Painters, Transportation Equipment	1,748	UF	VUF	\$10.29	\$13.46	\$17.47	One to two years of on-the-job training needed to become a skilled automotive painter.
Parking Lot/Garage Attendants	4,709	VF	F	\$6.63	\$8.95	\$9.37	Skills are learned informally through more experienced workers.
Tire-Repairers & Changers	2,742	F	UF	\$7.16	\$9.18	\$10.31	Informal on-the-job training is provided by supervisors or experienced workers.
Vehicle Washers & Equipment Cleaners	13,643	VF	VF	\$5.50	\$6.82	\$9.38	Most training ranges from a short on-the-job demonstration to informal on-the-job training, lasting up to three months.

\* Occupational growth rates and job opening data are based on All-Industry projections through the year 2008.

\* Long-Term Outlook and Short-Term Forecasts descriptors are derived from projected employment growth and the level of employment for the occupation as a percentage of total employment.

\* Wage data cover full-time, part-time and seasonal employees but exclude temporary and contractual workers. Wages include piece rates, commissions and cost-of-living allowances but exclude overtime and tips.

\*\*\*data are not available

F Favorable  
 VF Very Favorable  
 UF Unfavorable  
 VUF Very Unfavorable

## **■ WHAT ARE SOME OF THE JOBS?**

**AUTOMOTIVE BODY REPAIRERS**...straighten out bent auto bodies, remove dents and replace crumpled parts of cars that are beyond repair. Most body repairers work on cars and small trucks; a smaller number work on large trucks, buses or tractor-trailers. Technological advances have greatly changed the structure, components, and even the materials used in automobiles. This, in turn, has created many new repair techniques, requiring many new skills.

**AUTOMOTIVE MECHANICS**...repair and service automobiles and light trucks (such as vans and pickups) with gasoline engines. In larger shops, they have increasingly become specialized. For example, automatic transmission mechanics work on gear trains, couplings, hydraulic pumps and other parts of automatic transmissions. This difficult specialty usually requires an additional two years of training and experience. Automotive radiator mechanics clean radiators with caustic solutions, locate and solder leaks and install new radiators. The field of automotive technology is rapidly increasing in sophistication, requiring applicants to have additional formal training.

**AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC HELPERS**...assist auto mechanics by retrieving tools, materials and supplies, taking apart defective equipment and preparing replacement parts.

**AUTOMOTIVE PAINTERS**...are among the most highly skilled manual spray operators, as they often have the very difficult task of mixing paint to match original colors which have faded.

**DIESEL MECHANICS**...repair and maintain diesel engines, which are more durable, heavier and more fuel-efficient than gasoline engines and, thus, are used to power most heavy vehicles and equipment. Most work on engines that power transportation construction and farm equipment. Knowledge of basic electronics is becoming essential.

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## ■ WHAT IS THE JOB OUTLOOK?

Employment in this field is expected to increase about as fast as the average for all occupations through the year 2008. Demand will increase because as the number of motor vehicles in operation grows with the Nation's population, the number damaged in accidents will increase as well. New lighter weight automotive designs are prone to greater collision damage than older, heavier designs and, consequently, take more time to repair. Replacement of experienced workers leaving the occupation will still account for the majority of job openings. The number is also expected to increase as expansion of the driving age population increases the number of motor vehicles on the road. Finally, the growing complexity of automotive technology makes it more necessary for cars to be serviced by skilled employees.

## ■ WHERE CAN I FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

The Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2000-01 Edition, contains many additional sources of information for over 250 occupations in all sectors of the economy. You may order the Handbook by contacting the U.S. Government Bookstore, 401 South State Street, Suite 124, Chicago, Illinois 60605-1297, 312/353-5133 or check out the online version at <http://stats.bls.gov/ocohome.htm>.

For access to other labor market and workforce information on the internet, visit the following sites:  
IDES' home page: <http://www.ides.state.il.us>,  
LMI Source: <http://lmi.ides.state.il.us>,  
Workforce Info Center: <http://www.ILWorkInfo.com> and a site targeted towards high school students:  
<http://www.workforceinfo.state.il.us>.



Career Guide Sources:  
Illinois Department of Employment Security's  
"Occupational Projections" and "Occupational Employment Statistics Wage Data" and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' "Occupational Outlook Handbook"

